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(b) the number among these so deputed who actually attended the meeting during these years; and

(c) the number of research and other scientific papers contributed by the various officers of the Department to the Indian Science Congress during each of the above years?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Two Officers of the Agricultural Department engaged in scientific research were permitted to attend at their own cost the Indian Science Congress Session held in 1952. No Agricultural Research Officer was permitted to attend the Indian Science Congress Sessions held during 1953, 1954 and 1955. In 1952 and 1955, the Headquarters Deputy Director of Agriculture (Engineering), who is a member of the Indian Science Congress was given permission to attend at his own cost the meetings of the Congress.

" (b) None of these officers attended the meetings which they were deputed to attend.

" (c) Three."

Madras, Cuddalore and Nagapattinam Ports.

* 1581 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have any information about the probable date of starting the work to improve and to extend the Madras Port;

(b) whether there is any scheme to improve cargo traffic and to construct cargo traffic boats at Cuddalore and Nagapattinam; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the passenger traffic at Nagapattinam Port?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) Some of the works relating to the improvement of the Madras Port are either under execution or nearing completion. Some other major improvement works are scheduled to begin in the next three or four months. Works under the port extension scheme are expected to start in about 18 months.

" (b) & (c) The existing facilities at the ports being considered more than sufficient to cope with the available trade, there is no proposal to take up any special scheme to improve the cargo and passenger traffic at the ports, except carrying out certain Port Development Works.

As regards cargo boats, Government have no proposal to construct them. All cargo boats at ports in the State are privately owned and their number is considered sufficient."

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Sri A. RATNAM :—" கடலூர் துறைமுகத்தில் கப்பலிலிருந்து சாமான்களை இறக்குவதற்கும் ஏற்றுமதி செய்வதற்கும் பல கஷ்டங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. ஆகவே, புதுச்சேரி துறைமுகத்தில் ஏற்றுமதி இறக்குமதி செய்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் ஏதாவது நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பார்களா ? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" புதுச்சேரி துறைமுகம் சம்பந்தமான கேள்வியை அங்கத்தினர் கேட்கிறார். முதல் கேள்விக்கும் இதற்கும் பொருத்தமில்லை."

Sri A. RATNAM :—" Cuddalore is near Pondicherry. Therefore this question can be put, Sir."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" How can the Minister answer that? "

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" The Madras Port Trust authorities proposed to extend the Port to the south, opposite to the Secretariat building of the Madras Government. I want to know whether that scheme has been deferred. I believe the Madras Government raised some objection to extend the Port on the southern side. Was that scheme deferred or is it in operation? "

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It has not been deferred. It is proposed to start it in 18 months' time."

Sri S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" Are the Government aware that by improving and extending the Madras Harbour towards the south, the northern portion of the City of Madras is being eaten away, i.e., there is erosion on the northern portion of Madras City? " 9-30 a.m.

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I can't understand the logic or reasonableness of the question. The Government of India have negotiated with this Government and they are effecting the extension. How can the hon. Member say that the extension towards the south causes erosion on the north? "

Neyveli Lignite Project.

* 1582 *Q*.—Sri A. RATNAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any Committee has been formed to make further investigation into the Neyveli Lignite Project before the middle of 1955; and

(*b*) the immediate and ultimate benefits of the lignite project?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) As the investigations are only experimental there are no immediate benefits except some water pumped out from the quarry for irrigation purposes. If large scale mining is commenced, several industrial plants, for example, a Thermal Plant for generation of power, a fertilizer plant for the manufacture of ammonium sulphate and urea, a briquetting plant